

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023

Zoom - Virtual Meeting

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### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land acknowledgement was read by Andrew Bassingthwaighte.

### CALL TO ORDER

Andrew Bassingthwaighte called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Andrew Bassingthwaighte, Christopher Yendt, Kelly Pilato, Matthew Mahler, Timothy Nelles, Peter Fraser, Tara McKendrick (ex officio)

Regrets: Chris Ventura, Faith Scott, Marlena Stadnik-Misner, Marion Quigley

Recorder: Sherry Riddick

### DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

No conflict of interest was declared.

### PRESENTATION

Community Accountability Planning Submission (CAPs) Update – The response was received at the agency at 7 pm on March 29, 2023 with request to sign back by March 31, 2023. It was noted that there were errors in agency contact information, so this was requested to be corrected, then the agreement was reviewed and signed back on Tuesday April 4, 2023. The agreement reflects a 2% base budget increase and is reflective of the original submission in all respects.

### AGENDA

The agenda was approved by all.

Moved by: Kelly Pilato

Seconded by: Matthew Mahler

**That the Agenda for the Board Meeting of April 27, 2023 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING**

The minutes were approved by all.

Moved by: Peter Fraser

Seconded by: Matthew Mahler

**That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday March 23, 2023 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

There was no consent agenda at this time.

#### **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- **The 2023-2024 CAPS/MSAA agreement** was discussed on page one under the title PRESENTATION.
- **Provincial Budget was announced on March 23, 2023**, promising investment in mental health and addictions, inclusive of 5% base budget increases to community mental health and addictions organizations. CMHA Ontario has since confirmed that the 5% is intended to be applied in this fiscal, however, communication from Ontario Health branches has not occurred across the province. A 2% was accepted and applied in the signing of the CAPS/MSAA agreement, with an additional 3% expected but details to follow regarding timelines.
- CMHA Niagara participated in a huddle with Ontario Health and other service providers on April 25 in relation to the settlement of **Fort Albany First Nations Flood Evacuees** into Niagara Falls for the next 6-8 weeks. At this time, Indigenous service providers are taking the lead on providing support and services to the evacuees, and CMHA Niagara has expressed that we are on the sidelines at this time and encouraged partners to reach out if we can be helpful.
- Mental Health Week is May 1-7, 2023. Rather than creating our own content and activities with current limited resources for this CMHA National observation, we are instead amplifying and promoting activities and opportunities from National and community. For example, Chorus Niagara is presenting “Sound Mind” on Saturday May

6 in recognition, and ED is attending in behalf of CMHA. Details can be found at [Chorus Niagara - Sound Mind \(firstontariopac.ca\)](https://www.firstontariopac.ca/Chorus-Niagara-Sound-Mind) if Board members are interested in attending.

- **The Coroner’s Inquest into the death of Mr. Penner concluded on** March 30, 2023 with 10 recommendations identified by the jury. The full verdict has been posted to the Board portal for access by members, and for the purpose of this report, there were three recommendations addressed to CMHA, including:
  - 1) Consider creating an information package with Niagara Health to share with patients,
  - 2) Continue to review and revise policies with NRPS in relation to MCRRT and COAST, and
  - 3) Explore with Niagara Health and NRPS information sharing and referral processes for patients apprehended under mental health act and discharged from hospital, as well as one to Government of Ontario to increase funding for community based mental health and addictions resources. CMHA Niagara staff members who testified have shared appreciation for the process and support provided, as well as impact on personal healing and their own wellness regarding the incident. We are grateful to the Coroner, Coroner’s Counsel office, and the other partners involved for a congenial and productive inquest to learn from Mr. Penner’s tragic death.
- CMHA Niagara’s current **Strategic Plan** expires March 31, 2024. A kick off meeting led by the consultants is scheduled for June 6, with representation from Board, Leadership, staff and Client and Family Advisory. The intent of this meeting is to determine with “core team” timelines and engagement activities, and there will be future opportunities for all Board members to contribute and participate in the process.
- As anticipated, **Public health protocols in place due to the COVID 19 Pandemic were lifted at CMHA Niagara, effective April 5, 2023, with the exception of congregate living settings (CLS)** (Safe Beds, Glendale, St. Paul). This means that (with the exception of CLS) CMHA Niagara has ceased active screening of staff, requiring masking on site, no limitations on room capacities etc. An all staff virtual Town Hall was held on April 4 to share the changes with staff, and was received well with no ensuing concerns. This is in keeping with protocols being lifted across other organizations in Niagara, including Niagara Region Public Health. We continue to monitor congregate guidelines and recommendations, as well as practice of our co-located partner Niagara Health Withdrawal Management.
- Brock University is hosting a BBQ to support CMHA Niagara – see link: <https://experiencebu.brocku.ca/event/234869>

Moved by: Christopher Yendt  
Seconded by: Tim Nelles

**That the ED Report for April 2023 be accepted.**

**Carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ONCA Slide Deck and live recording link – The slide deck and live recording link attached below:



New Rules for  
ONCA.pdf



ONCA 2023.pdf

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Inquest Update – See above in the ED report above
- Loan Renewal – Original loan advanced \$1,200,000 January 25, 2019 for leasehold improvements at Welland Avenue Location. Loan moved to a fixed rate loan with a 1-year term May 6, 2022; 4.22%. April 30, 2023 Maturity Date – we need to make a decision on renewal term. See available rates in email from Meridian below. Loan balance will be \$449,499.21 after the April 30, 2023 payment. Contractual remaining amortization that remains is 137 months after the April 30, 2023 payment (as the original amortization on the credit agreement was 15 years). Notwithstanding above, it was agreed to keep the payments at \$9,000/month (this was the previous payment prior to the principal reduction that occurred in May 2022) following lump principal payment following sale of Wellington. If payments are kept at \$9,000, the remaining amortization is less than 5 years.
  - 1 Year = 6.06%
  - 2 Year = 5.81%
  - 3 Year = 5.73%
  - 4 Year = 5.66%

Matthew Mahler recommends renewing for a 2 year term after reviewing the forecasting of interest rates and sharing with the board. Everyone was in favour.

Moved by: Matthew Mahler

Seconded by: Peter Fraser

**That the Loan be renewed for a 2 year term up for renewal on April 30, be accepted.**

**Carried.**

- Link to Meeting survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYRSVZ3>

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Andrew Bassingthwaighte moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.